

Message Text

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41

ACTION SCS-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-06 ADP-00 SCA-01 SY-10 FBIE-00 INR-10

CIAE-00 NSAE-00 USSS-00 PPT-02 L-03 H-03 /039 W

----- 045154

R 091230Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1010

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: UR US CASC

SUBJ: W/W - OSTAPOVICH

1. AMCIT GUIDE SVITLANA LUTZKY WHO IS ESCORTING GROUP UKRAINIAN -BORN AMERICANS ON SOVIET TOUR REPORTED TO CONSOFF AUGUST 9 THAT TOUR MEMBER MRS. (FNU) OSTAPOVICH, US RESIDENT ALIEN, IS MISSING FROM TOUR AND MAY HAVE CHOSEN TO REMAIN IN SOVIET UNION. MRS. LUTZKY SAID SHE WAS INFORMED BY SOVIET INTOURIST GUIDE AUGUST 8 THAT TELEGRAM HAD BEEN SENT BY MRS. OSTAPOVICH SAYING SHE WOULD HENCEFORTH BE STAYING PERMANENTLY WITH HER GRANDCHILDREN IN IVANO-FRANKOVSK.

2. MRS. LUTZKY SAID SHE WAS DISTURBED BECAUSE SOVIETS DID NOT PRODUCE ALLEGED TELEGRAM AND MRS. OSTAPOVICH HAS US CITIZEN DAUGHTER AND OTHER RELATIVES IN US. FURTHERMORE, MRS. OSTAPOVICH HAD NOT TOLD ANY TOUR MEMBER OF DESIRE TO STAY PERMANENTLY IN SOVIET UNION. MRS. LUTZKY AND TOUR MEMBER BABIJ WHO ACCOMPANIED HER TO EMBASSY DESCRIBED MRS. OSTAPOVICH AS MENTALLY ALERT SEVENTY-EIGHT YEAR OLD WHO HAS RESIDED IN US AT LEAST SINCE 1960. ACCORDING TO LUTZKY, SOVIETS HAVE ALREADY TURNED HER RE-ENTRY PERMIT INTO MOSCOW "MINISTRY."

3. TOUR WAS EVIDENTLY ORGANIZED BY SCOPE TRAVEL AGENCY, 192-12 NORTHERN BOULEVARD, FLUSHING, NEW JERSEY, TELEPHONE 212-357-5400. GROUP LEAVES FOR KHARKOV AUGUST 9 AND RETURNS

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TO MOSCOW AUGUST 13 PRIOR TO FLIGHT TO NEW YORK CITY VIA

AMSTERDAM SAME DAY. MRS. LUTZKY THOUGHT SCOPE AGENCY
WOULD HAVE FURTHER INFO ON OSTAPOVICH AND HER NOK.

4. AFTER ASSURING LUTZKY THAT THERE WAS LITTLE LIKELIHOOD
SOVIET AUTHORITIES WERE COMPELLING MRS. OSTAPOVICH TO REMAIN
AGAINST HER WILL, CONSOFF PROMISED TO MAKE INQUIRIES HER
WHEREABOUTS/WELFARE THROUGH CENTRAL INTOURIST OFFICES
MOSCOW.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: WOULD DEPARTMENT ASCERTAIN OSTAPOVICH
NOK (DAUGHTER, IF POSSIBLE) AND ELICIT THEIR VIEWS WHETHER
MRS. OSTAPOVICH'S REPORTED DECISION TO REMAIN SOVIET UNION IS
VOLUNTARY.

DECON 8/31/77.
DUBS

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